

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03823 101245Z  
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2285  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 3823

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, JO, US  
SUBJECT: \$140 MILLION HAWK PAYMENT AND HUSSEIN VISIT

1. WHEN I SPOKE WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ON JULY 9,  
HE INDICATED THAT KING HAD GIVEN HIM GENERAL BRIEFING  
ON VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. ON POLITICAL SIDE HASSAN SAID KING FELT HE HAD  
ACHIEVED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH SAUDIS ON  
VARIOUS POSITIONS REGARDING PEACE SETTLEMENT.  
HASSAN SAID HIS CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER HAD BEEN  
ONLY BRIEF AND THAT IN GENERAL HUSSEIN HAD BEEN  
PLEASED WITH SAUDIS' DISCUSSION. HASSAN REMARKED  
THAT HUSSEIN WAS IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT KING KHALID  
COULD NOT BE SHORT-CIRCUITED BY DEALING WITH FAHD.  
LATTER APPROACH BY JORDAN HAD BEEN A MISTAKE AND KING KHALID  
HAD RESENTED THE PROCEDURE AND FAHD HAD BEEN  
EMBARRASSED BY IT.

3. I ASKED HASSAN ABOUT THE \$140 MILLION PROBLEM.  
HASSAN SAID THAT THIS MAIN ISSUE HAD BEEN CLEARED AWAY  
AND JORDANIANS EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH  
SAUDIS IN FUTURE ON ADDITIONAL MONEY QUESTIONS.

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I ASKED HASSAN WHAT PROCEDURES HAD BEEN WORKED OUT.  
HE SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO HIM BUT HE THOUGHT IT  
WAS SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES WHICH U.S. HAD  
SUGGESTED.

4. A FEW MINUTES LATER I CALLED ON COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF LT. GENERAL BIN SHAKER. DURING THAT

CONVERSATION I ALSO RAISED SAUDI VISIT. BIN SHAKER SAID HE WAS RELIEVED TO HAVE HEARD FROM THE KING THAT THE \$140 MILLION PROBLEM HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AND THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT NOT JORDAN. HE WAS UNCERTAIN ON DETAILS, BUT DID STATE TO ME CLEARLY THAT NO RPT NO RABAT PAYMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM SAUDI ARABIA FOR JORDAN FOR 1977. HOWEVER, BIN SHAKER WAS CATEGORICAL THAT FUTURE YEAR RABAT PAYMENTS WERE NOT AFFECTED. BIN SHAKER LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT WITHHOLDING THE RABAT PAYMENT WOULD OFFSET JORDANIAN INDULGENCE WITH THE MISSING \$140 MILLION.

5. BIN SHAKER WAS CANDID WITH ME IN SAYING THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE KING SOME MONTHS AGO ABOUT PRIME MINISTER'S MISHANDLING OF THE \$140 MILLION AT A TIME WHEN THE \$140 MILLION COULD HAVE BEEN RECOVERED BY JORDAN AND PRESENTED TO THE U.S.

6. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE, IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE APPROACHING A SOLUTION TO THE \$140 MILLION PROBLEM. AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS, I EXPECT JORDANIAN AND SAUDI PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT ACTUALLY IS TO HAPPEN ARE, AT THIS EARLY STAGE, SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. LOSS OF THE RABAT PAYMENT (ABOUT \$50 MILLION PER YEAR) FOR 1976 AND 1977  
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WILL NOT COVER EXACTLY THE \$140 MILLION, BUT WILL COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO ALLOW SAUDIS TO FEEL SOME SORT OF A DEAL HAS BEEN WORKED OUT. BIN SHAKER IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHETHER OTHER PAYMENTS (OIL SUBSIDY, FOR EXAMPLE) WILL BE CURTAILED. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE \$140 MILLION WOULD COME TO THE ARMY OR HAD COME (HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WITH ME ON THE TIMING) TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS IN RABAT SUBSIDIES. I EXPECT TO SEE KING ON HIS RETURN FROM EGYPT TO HEAR HIS STORY ON WHAT HAPPENED.  
PICKERING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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